

As this body honors and recalls a truly historic event in our Nation, let us also not forget that much still remains to be done to ultimately fulfill the legacy and the dreams of those thousands of Americans who participated in the Montgomery bus boycott.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 273, which recognizes and honors the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott and the historical significance of the boycott to the United States.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a seamstress and wife, boarded a Montgomery bus to begin her usual journey home. Nothing was particularly different about this day, except that she wanted to sit after a long day's work. When ordered by the white bus driver to give up her seat to a white passenger, she simply refused, and her action led to a boycott of the city's bus system. This event was the straw that broke the back of segregation in the South.

This was a stunning moment in time, not just a step along the way. It ultimately resulted in two of our nation's landmark pieces of legislation, the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

The bus boycott was a memorable example of how Dr. Martin Luther King's tradition of nonviolent protests have brought about important policy changes in our world.

In our nation's ongoing struggle for civil rights, this boycott was a watershed event, and it is appropriate to be honoring it here today on the House floor.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott. The boycott was a pivotal moment that turned the tide in this Nation's history, and it was initiated by the simplest of actions, undertaken by the most unimposing of individuals—the late Rosa Parks, whose death on October 24 we continue to mourn.

In the United States, we are born and raised to believe in individual freedom and equality. We read of it in our founding documents, we live and breathe it, we are surrounded by it and immersed in it. Confronted, then, by the denial of individual freedom and equality, Ms. Parks put the nation to a test of its principles, without knowing that her simple act of defiance would reverberate around the world. What followed, as we all know, was nothing short of the transformation of the nation.

And so I rise today to again honor Rosa Parks, and to commemorate the Montgomery bus boycott, but also to acknowledge—I am saddened to say—that we seem to have a very long way to go yet in the United States to ensure racial and ethnic equality. We must honor those who struggled in the Montgomery bus boycott, those who worked for the passage of the Civil Rights Act, and the passage of the Voting Rights Act, by ensuring today that all America are entitled to vote, are not intimidated to vote, and that their votes are accurately counted.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and all those who launched the Montgomery bus boycott, resulting in the end of segregation on buses and commencing the transformation of the Nation. I call on my colleagues to continue the unending struggle to make the United States the shining example of freedom, democracy and equality for all that the founding fathers in-

tended it to be and the civil rights movement brought into fruition.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and urge passage of this resolution. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to support the adoption of H. Con. Res. 273. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 273.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NAVAL VESSELS TRANSFER ACT OF 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1886) to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1886

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. TRANSFERS BY GRANT.

The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign recipients on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j), as follows:

(1) GREECE.—To the Government of Greece, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ship PELICAN (MHC-53).

(2) EGYPT.—To the Government of Egypt, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ships CARDINAL (MHC-60) and RAVEN (MHC-61).

(3) PAKISTAN.—To the Government of Pakistan, the SPRUANCE class destroyer ship FLETCHER (DD-992).

(4) TURKEY.—To the Government of Turkey, the SPRUANCE class destroyer ship CUSHING (DD-985).

SEC. 3. TRANSFERS BY SALE.

The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign recipients on a sale basis under section 21 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2761), as follows:

(1) INDIA.—To the Government of India, the AUSTIN class amphibious transport dock ship TRENTON (LPD-14).

(2) GREECE.—To the Government of Greece, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ship HERON (MHC-52).

(3) TURKEY.—To the Government of Turkey, the SPRUANCE class destroyer ship O'BANNON (DD-987).

SEC. 4. GRANTS NOT COUNTED IN ANNUAL TOTAL OF TRANSFERRED EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.

The value of a vessel transferred to another country on a grant basis pursuant to authority provided by section 2 shall not be counted against the aggregate value of excess defense articles transferred to countries in any fiscal year under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

SEC. 5. COSTS OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS.

Notwithstanding section 516(e)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.

2321j(e)(1)), any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized under section 2 shall be charged to the recipient.

SEC. 6. REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.

To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel under this section, that the country to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed before the vessel joins the naval forces of that country be performed at a shipyard located in the United States, including a United States Navy shipyard.

SEC. 7. EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.

The authority to transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1886.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1886, the Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2005, which the Senate passed by unanimous consent on October 18, 2005. S. 1886 would authorize the transfers of eight decommissioned United States Naval vessels to other countries. Two ships would be transferred by grant to Egypt and one each to Greece, Pakistan and Turkey. Three would be transferred by sale, one to India, one to Greece and one to Turkey.

The bill's provisions are nearly identical to those contained in section 751 of H.R. 2601, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, which would also authorize transfer of eight vessels to the same countries and on the same terms. H.R. 2601 passed the House on July 20 by recorded vote of 351 to 78.

The Senate has not yet completed floor consideration in this session of a Foreign Relations Authorization Act. It passed a stand-alone bill, S. 1886, authorizing the transfer of these eight vessels. Since timely action was necessary to ensure the smooth operation and effective use of the decommissioned ship assets of the United States Navy, this limited purpose bill is before us. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us accomplishes a simple

and straightforward task. It gives the Navy the authority to transfer excess U.S. Naval vessels to India, Greece, Turkey, Pakistan and Egypt.

With these transfers our military will have greater interoperability with the armed forces of these nations, all of which are either key allies of the United States or are located in strategically important regions of the world.

It is my strong hope that these transfers will encourage these countries to expand their cooperation with the United States in our mutual struggle against terrorism in all its virulent and demented forms.

I would also note that our legislation has already been approved by the House as part of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act which has, unfortunately, languished in the other body.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1886.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3269) to amend the International Organizations Immunities Act to provide for the applicability of that Act to the Bank for International Settlements.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3269

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT.

The International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 17. The provisions of this title may be extended to the Bank for International Settlements in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions, as they may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3269.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and rise in support of this bill which would designate the Bank For International Settlements, otherwise known as the BIS, as an international organization under the International Organizations Immunity Act, otherwise known as IOIA, thus allowing the President to extend appropriate immunities to the BIS.

I should note at the outset that this legislation was requested by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and it is also strongly supported by the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury.

As Members may be aware, the BIS is an international organization that functions as a bank for central banks and is owned exclusively by central banks. Following consultation with the Executive Branch and Congressional leadership, the Federal Reserve formally joined the BIS Board of Directors in 1994.

□ 1530

The Federal Reserve currently holds two seats on the BIS board and participates actively in the important work of the BIS to promote international financial stability.

Because the BIS is indirectly owned by more than one foreign government, the immunities granted by the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act are not available to the BIS absent legislative action by the Congress under the framework provided by the IOIA for international organizations. I concur with the Federal Reserve as well as the Departments of State and Treasury in concluding that providing appropriate immunities to the BIS has significant merit at this time.

The BIS plays a critical role in financing large volumes of U.S. dollar transactions in the United States daily for its central bank customers. It has also been integral to international efforts to promote global financial stability in the face of emerging market financial crises, such as those that hallmarked much of the last decade. Without extending immunities to the BIS, these transactions could be disrupted by mischievous lawsuits. This may create disincentives to conduct international transactions in dollars.

Moreover, an extension of immunity to the BIS in accordance with the provisions of the IOIA would provide protection of its assets held in the United States equivalent to the protection currently enjoyed by the European Central Bank and other international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Indeed, Congress addressed a parallel situation in 2002 when it passed legisla-

tion allowing for the President to extend immunities under the IOIA to the European Central Bank.

As I noted previously, the Federal Reserve and the Departments of State and Treasury strongly support this legislative initiative to designate the BIS as an international organization under the IOIA. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3269. At the outset, I want to congratulate my good friend from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) for introducing this thoughtful legislation.

The Bank of International Settlements is the world's oldest international financial institution and plays a little-known, but key, role as the central bank to central banks. It also provides technical assistance to central banks of developing countries.

Although the U.S. Federal Reserve has two members on the board, because of recent restructuring, the bank is now owned by those central banks that have deposits in it and therefore technically does not satisfy the requirements of the International Organizations Immunities Act, which extends immunity to organizations in which the United States is a member.

Our legislation applies these immunities to the bank, helping it to maintain its important role and providing an incentive to keep these reserves in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman for his thoughtful comments, and I would only add that the BIS plays a critical role in attempting to combat money laundering and to block the transfer of terrorist financing. It is a critical institution, although little known to the public; but it clearly deserves the immunities that are established for other international organizations and other foreign governments.

I urge adoption of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3269.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules